

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 3 without prejudice or disclaimer.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A specimen dispensing system comprising:

a plurality of conveyor lanes;

~~a master specimen container~~ containers containing a specimen respectively disposed on each of the conveyor lanes;

a required number of empty slave specimen containers which are aligned on the same conveyor lanes as a respective one of the master specimen containers and disposed behind the respective master specimen container;

~~a plurality of conveyor lanes;~~

conveying means cooperable with the conveyor lanes for conveying the master specimen ~~container~~ containers and the empty slave specimen containers on the plurality of conveyor lanes, wherein the master and slave specimen containers are aligned before and behind each other on the same conveyor lane in each of the conveyor lanes in a conveyance direction, and each specimen container is conveyed on the same conveyor lane so that the empty slave specimen container is conveyed behind the respective master specimen container;

~~a dispensing unit~~ means including a dispensing nozzle; and

stopping means for temporarily stopping the master and slave specimen containers when the master and slave specimen containers reach a position under the dispensing nozzle,

~~the said~~ dispensing unit ~~means for~~ removing the specimen from the master specimen ~~container~~ containers by the dispensing nozzle when the master specimen ~~container is~~ containers

are temporarily stopped in the position under the dispensing nozzle and dispensing the specimen to the slave specimen containers conveyed behind the respective master specimen container on the same conveyor lane when the slave specimen containers are temporarily stopped in the position under the dispensing nozzle, wherein a controller moves the dispensing ~~unit is movable~~ nozzle in a direction crossing the conveyor lanes.

2. (Currently Amended) The specimen dispensing system according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of said dispensing ~~units~~ nozzles, wherein each of the dispensing ~~units~~ nozzles dispenses the specimen to the slave specimen containers from the respective master specimen container on the conveyor lane concurrently with dispensing operations on other conveyor lanes.

3. (Canceled)